



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds
National Monument

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Lava Beds National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lava Beds National Monument Announces the Start of Seasonal Crystal Ice Cave Tours

TULELAKE, California— Thanks to the low temperatures from the recent cold spell, Lava Beds National Monument staff have determined that Crystal Ice Cave will be ready for public tours beginning on December 19, 2015. Overnight low temperatures during the past week dropped into the single digits. During cold snaps like these, the cold, dense air sinks into the single cave entrance and cools the depths of the cave, solidifying ice resources and allowing their growth with adequate precipitation. This week, monument staff assessed the cave and the condition of its ice formations, and determined that the ice floors are frozen enough to allow the tours to begin.

Public tours will begin Saturday, December 19, 2015, and will be given every Saturday through March 2016 or as conditions allow. Tours are limited to six people per tour as the warmth brought into the cave by people can significantly alter the ice formations. To sign up for a tour or get further information, call the Lava Beds National Monument Visitor Center at (530) 667-8113 beginning at 8:30 AM no more than three weeks before the date of the requested tour. Tours typically fill quickly.

Superintendent Larry Whalon said, “Crystal Ice Cave tours provide a unique opportunity to see a very special place. We are thrilled tours can begin a little earlier than last season. We anticipate a lot of competition for the limited number of spots this year with the release of [Crystal Ice Cave film](#) that illustrates what a truly remarkable place this is.”

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Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8113, email labe_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/labe. Also, visit the park's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages.

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